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Kuipers Announces Education Savings Bills Pass Senate

*Legislation Offers More Local Control for Districts, Opportunity
to Save Funds in Operating Budgets*

(LANSING) – State Senator Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today announced the Legislature is making steadfast progress in cutting administrative costs for K-12 education by passing two bills giving local school districts flexibility in their operating budgets.

“Due to the current statewide budget crisis it was mandatory for the Legislature to find solutions in order to save costs on K-12 education, and I am pleased that today the Senate passed two bills achieving that goal,” Kuipers, chair of the Senate Education Committee, said. “This legislation ensures Michigan children will still receive the best education possible, at the same time giving school districts the flexibility they need for their budgets.”

Spanning a three week time period, the Senate Education Committee received testimony from local school administrators who came forth to offer suggestions on how school districts across the state can save funds in their operating budgets. Based on those suggestions, the following two bills today passed the Senate:

- **Senate Bill 365: Streamlining the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).** Currently, data submitted by schools is submitted to CEPI and numerous other state agencies. This bill requires that all data submissions will be made directly to CEPI. Sponsor: Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Novi.

(MORE)

- **Senate Bill 366: Eliminating Professional Development Requirements.** Currently, new teachers must have 15 days of professional development within the first three years along with five days of professional development per year. School districts pay for these services in addition to paying for substitute teachers. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, schools could save between \$35 and \$40 million alone by not having to pay substitute teacher costs. Sponsor: Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt.

“The underlying basis for these bills is to give more control to local school districts to exercise their judgment on how best to serve the needs of their students and communities,” Kuipers said. “The legislation allows committed and creative administrators, teachers and parents to get the optimum educational impact from their tax dollars. Peeling away cumbersome mandates gives districts options they would not otherwise have. This becomes all the more critical during tough financial times.”

Senate Bills 365 and 366 now await consideration from the House Education Committee.